* * * * * THE LATEST UFO NEWS EVENTS, PREPARED NOVEMBER 30, 1977 * * * * * * * * *

MINI-"FLAP" IN NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ... BUT OF IFOs?

A considerable outbreak of UFO reporting took place in a small section of Pennsylvania from October 29 through November 3, all in the general vicinity of Erie. IUR performed complete checks on a number of these, and received partial descriptions on many more. In brief, the vast majority of these reports appear to have been triggered by media attention to sightings of scintillating stars portrayed as "UFOs". Most of the rest of the reports followed suit, except perhaps for two reports, both of which are described in this issue's "limited merit" cases.

A chronological listing of all Erie-related sightings runs as follows:

CASE	DATE	TIME	PLACE	CONCLUSION
2-12-35	10/29	1 AM	Mill Creek	Star in south flashing colors - seen by police
2-12-37	10/29	7:30 AM	Northeast	DD - see "UFOs of Limited Merit"
2-12-39	10/29	7:45 PM	Northeast	NL - see "UFOs of Limited Merit"
2-12-41	10/30	7 PM	Erie	Star changing colors, apparent "pendulum" mvmt.
2-12-42	10/30	8 PM	New Wilmington	Star changing colors, distorted shape, haze
2-12-43	10/30	11:35PM	Mill Creek	Ascribable to aircraft light
2-12-44	10/31	6 PM	Indiana	Ascribable to aircraft light
2-12-51	11/2	6 PM	Delta	Ascribable to aircraft light
2-12-52	11/2	8:15 PM	McKean	Stars, changing colors, false movements
2-12-55	11/3	5:45 AM	Indiana	Ascribable to aircraft
2-12-57	11/3	10 PM	Indiana	Ascribable to aircraft

In addition to our own reports, IUR obtained a copy of the police log for Saturday, Oct.30 for Northeast (City), PA. Watch what happened after the local media became involved. Sightings indicated below were NOT reported to IUR unless otherwise noted.

2:11 AM = Officer Gary Rogers and his partner report seeing a UFO. Brief description sounds like scintillating star. Police are also aware of sighting in Mill Creek (case 2-12-35).
7:25 AM.= Same officer noted above involved in case 2-12-37.
7:40 AM = News services learned of events by listening to police monitors. WJET & WIKK call the police department for more info.
10:09 AM = UPI service calls the department for more info!
5:23 PM = Mutual Broadcasting in Washington calls for more info.
7:45 PM = Police involved in case 2-12-39. Learn from State Police that 47 people have already called them about UFO sightings. General descriptions provided all describe the same sort of thing - scintillating stars!
11:27 PM = Witness mistakes Jupiter for Venus, Pleiades for "7 UFOs"!

NASA UPDATE - A NOTE OF PESSIMISM -

NASA officials have released their first opinions to the news media on the feasibility of a NASA study of UFOs... namely, an uncertainty about engaging in UFOs without evidence like "little green men", or "at least a piece of metal from a UFO". "We're not anxious to do it because we're not sure what to do", said NASA's Assistant for Special Projects, Dave Williamson. "It is my personal opinion that it's not wise to do research on something that is not a measurable phenomenon. Spending public money on such research is questionable. There is no measurable UFO evidence such as a piece of metal, flesh or cloth; we don't even have any radio

(over)

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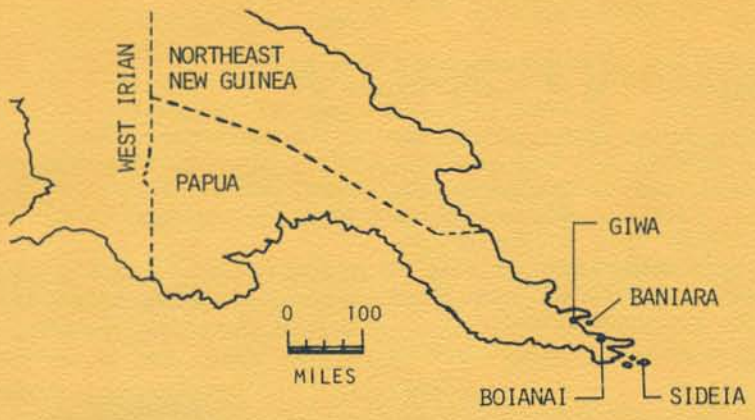
INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER T.M.

VOL. 2, NO. 12 DEC. 1977

A MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE UFO PHENOMENON
REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS & ANALYSES

"There is no hope of advance in science without a paradox."—Niels Bohr

PAPUA/FATHER GILL REVISITED



Part two—IUR reconstructs the night sky of that fateful night and discusses Gill's feelings 18 years later.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN IOWA

Pinkerton security guard watched nearby UFO and electrical appliances affected

7 UFOs SELECTED FROM 89 U.S. CASES: Oct. 15-Nov. 14

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EDITORIAL

by Dr. J. Allen Hynek

The advent of the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* has raised some very interesting questions for which the Center for UFO Studies and IUR seem to be a target. A frequently asked question is: "Will the movie produce a rash of hysterically induced UFO reports and how will we handle a deluge of such largely worthless reports?"

While in the abstract the work of the Center and the popularity of a Hollywood movie should be two separate matters, in reality —the two can hardly be separated. The sociology of UFO reporting is a valid research topic.

We can expect a marked increase in sighting reports. Many people who have never looked skyward will report all sorts of things—mostly garbage—but the important thing to watch for is not whether the movie produces a major wave of current UFO reports, but how many *older* reports will surface in the process. That is, will the movie materially lower the "reluctance barrier"—the reluctance to report. One of the most frequent remarks we hear is "Oh, of course I didn't report that—I didn't want anyone to think I was crazy!"

So, if "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" has the effect of making it more socially acceptable to report UFOs, we may be able to tap the huge reservoir of unreported UFO experiences. Valuable data might in this way be retrieved, since it has been reliably estimated that for every UFO report made, there are a dozen or more that go unreported. This is especially true of cases of high strangeness, for as Jacques Vallee has pointed out, the higher the strangeness of a UFO experience, the more reluctant are the witnesses to report. Yet these are precisely the scientifically valuable cases! Maybe the movie will help make the witness feel safe from ridicule and thus willing to report. Perhaps now we will be able to study a host of "oldies but goodies", heretofore unreported.

J. Allen Hynek

BOOK REVIEW

THE VIEW FROM SERENDIP, Arthur C. Clarke, Random House, 1977, $8.95 hardcover. 273 pages.

The book is, as the sub-title states: "Speculations on space, science, and the sea, together with fragments of an equatorial autobiography" of one of the most prolific (and prophetic) science writers of our times. Clarke is now the author of almost fifty books (fiction and non-fiction) which have been translated into over thirty languages. In this book a chapter appears titled, "Last (?) Words on UFO's"—a chapter only four pages long, and a reprint at that, from a review of two books he did for the New York Times in 1975. Still, the outlook on UFOs by Arthur C. Clarke is inevitably of interest, so IUR shall excerpt, non-judgmentally, some of the statements from this brief chapter, based on reviews of Phillip J. Klass' *UFOS EXPLAINED* and David Jacobs' *THE UFO CONTROVERSY IN AMERICA*:

Clarke recalls that on the eve of his decision to work on the film *2001* with Stanley Kubrick, the two men watched a point source of light rising above southern Manhattan. Clarke assumed this to be an Echo satellite until it appeared to come to rest directly overhead! A telescope was rushed out, and the object was observed in motion again for 10 minutes until it disappeared over the northern horizon; the telescope, however, did not resolve any other details. A check was made to find out when the Echo satellite was due, and Clarke was shaken to read that it was still too early by one hour. As it turned out, the listings were simply not complete and it was the satellite. The hovering was ascribed by Clarke to their excited state, the difficulty of judging movement overhead, and the lack of stars for a frame of reference as the moonlight had obliterated them from view.

Clarke regarded Klass' and Jacobs' books as "complimentary", that both belonged "in any library of the ten (to be generous) volumes worth reading on the subject of UFO's". Clarke notes that while Klass contributed much on the subject of unusual circumstances and emotions generating "UFO" sightings, his book at best explains only *some* UFOs, not all. "From the multitudinous nature of the beasts, there will always be some that forever defy explanation . . . ". Jacobs' book is regarded as a "scholarly" treatment of the history of UFO research, and Clarke notes Jacobs' attitude that there may be a "hard core of phenomena unexplained by contemporary science". Clarke dismisses the extraterrestrial theory for UFOs, however, on the assumption that if spaceships "do turn up, we'll know in sixty seconds. They won't hang around for centuries, looking for a place to park." Concerned, perhaps, about the emotional furor clouding our objectivity about the nature of UFO reports, Clarke informed the *Times* that he believed that UFOs need "a few decades of benign neglect", and threatened to sue the *Times* if it forwarded any correspondence relating to his reviews.

FOREIGN FORUM

This is a representative sampling of UFO sightings from around the world. While we cannot exert the same degree of control over these cases compared to domestic ones, it is at least of value to see that the same characteristics are reported for this phenomenon abroad as in the U.S.

CANADA: Libau, Manitoba, October 1, 1977. Two men, Leo and John Girardeau, were hunting 3 miles west of Libau at 7 PM when they watched the form shown in the sketches approaching them from the west, silhouetted against the sunset sky, at an estimated altitude of 500 feet. The witnesses went into their truck when the object came within a half-mile of them, and turned on their lights. The

object reversed its direction of travel in mid-air and proceeded westward. One of the witnesses fired his shotgun towards it to attract it back; when this failed, the men turned off the lights in the truck and drove after it, trying to sneak up on it. Running out of road a couple of miles later, they were forced to watch it depart slowly out of sight. The object, guessed to be 75-100 feet wide and 25-30 feet high, was always observed 10-15° above the horizon. It made a steady humming noise which grew louder as the object approached and diminished as it moved away. The sky was cloudless, the area uninhabited.

SOURCE: Manitoba Centre for UFO Studies

COSTA RICA: San Jose, October 20, 1977. A number of witnesses in the suburbs of Escazu (and 2 days later from La Sabana) reported UFOs to the local newspaper. The common denominator of most of the sightings appears to be the location of Pico Blanco, a mountain to the south of San Jose. One witness reported 2 UFOs "letting off huge sparks". Another saw a "bright orange light, highly visible even in daylight". A doctor watched "squat, orange objects" for 20 minutes until it rose "straight up at high speed" and disappeared.

SOURCE: The Tico Times, Friday, October 28, 1977.

ENGLAND: Bromley, Kent, October 20, 1977. Keith Kilford and Philip Staff watched a "fairly small" orange triangle at 8:15 PM over a house in Bromley which "grew" suddenly to twice its original size, shrank again, and moved "fairly rapidly" to the left until it disappeared. About 10 minutes later, the object reappeared "out of thin air" and moved slowly to their left again and descended out of sight.

SOURCE: Direct to IUR

ITALY: Nocera, Umbria, Perugia, "a few nights" before August 16, 1977. Several witnesses, including a Mr. Bruno Vitali, saw a cone-shaped

object "more than a meter high". Vitali said that he tried to hit the object with his car but was unsuccesful. "I pressed down on the accelerator but the distance between me and the object stayed the same". A drawing by Vitali has been done, showing an inverted cone-shape with a split vertex. The drawing puts the object only 10 centimeters above the ground. Vitali indicated that the object moved in 50 cm. "jumps", which lengthened to 100 cm. Students who investigated the site later found a stone that was still intensely hot 2 days after the event. Samples of the ground have been taken for further study.

SOURCE: La Nazione, Perugia, Italy, August 17, 1977.

U.S. SIGHTINGS

7 UFOS SELECTED FROM 89 CASES: Oct. 15-Nov. 14

76 reports were judged to be identifiable or inappropriate.
6 reports are still under investigation.
Refer to the monthly "Profile" feature for complete evaluations.

HOW WE LEARN OF UFO'S: UFO reports are from news departments, civilian organizations and individuals all over the world, but most of our reports stem from the Center for UFO Studies' UFO Central Hotline. This is a 24-hour, toll-free telephone service for the exclusive use of law enforcement agencies, FAA agencies, planetaria and other formal channels. This gives us the chance to follow up *all* cases rapidly for first-hand information with unlimited long-distance capability. Other advantages include screening of the hoaxers Indeed, police who patrol when others are asleep are encouraged to fill this void.

HOW WE DEFINE UFO'S: Any anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearance and/or behavior can't be ascribed to conventional objects and effects—not only by the original witnesses, but also by analysts who possess technical qualifications the original observer may lack.

NL—Nocturnal Light: distant anomalous lights seen in the night sky
DD—Daylight Discs: distant disc-like objects seen during the day
RV—Radar/Visual: UFOs seen by radar and vision simultaneously

CE I—Close Encounter of the First Kind: UFOs seen within 500 feet
CE II—Close Encounter of the Second Kind: CE I's that leave behind physical traces
CE III—Close Encounter of the Third Kind: CE I with humanoid occupants seen

HOW WE NUMBER CASES: All UFO sightings will receive a three element number which will serve as a case "name". The first numbers refer to the volume and issue number of the edition that contains the case, and the last number refers to the order it arrived (example: 1-1-7, the seventh case of the first issue).

UFOs of Limited Merit

These reports are of intermediate stature. They are UFOs in the sense that we don't know what they are, but for a variety of stated *reasons, they are not really worthy of closer scrutiny.*

CASE	TYPE	DATE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	PLACE
2-12-16	NL	10-22-77	2:40 AM	3 min.	1	Irondequoit, NY

A half-moon-shaped "cloud", 3 times the size of the real moon and glowing orange, was observed to hover 45° up in the west and descend to half that angle in the last 25-30 seconds. Chunks like "teardrops" were seen to fall off; the object was then blocked from view by a tree. No sound, overcast sky. Seen by a 48-year old housewife.

Single witness, who looked outside because her TV was going on and off 3 times for 20 minutes; under the circumstances, however, it's difficult to draw a cause-and-effect relationship between the UFO and the cloud. No other reports to the police, and nothing was noted by Rochester Air Traffic Control. Color, motion, and "teardrops" falling off symptomatic of prank laundry bag balloon . . . but look at the next case, reported independently a few miles away around the same time of night.

2-12-17	NL	10-23-77	3:30 AM	10+ min.	2	Rochester, NY

A glowing rectangular "cloud", 3 times the size of the moon and white in color, was seen by a teenage couple to recede away toward the SW from an initially low angle as they drove to the airport. No sound, clear sky.

IUR spoke with the Rochester airport minutes after the sighting, but no one on duty had perceived the object either visually, on radar, or by pilot report. No additional sightings, yet note the similarity with the case above.

2-12-25	NL	10-24-77	2 AM	1½ min.	1+	Cerrillos, NM

27-year old musician watched a distinct saucer-shaped object 3 times the moon's diameter and 2 times its height with 1 steady but dim light in its center. 2 conical peaks were noted on top early in the event. The saucer, silhouetted near the moon, came toward the witness from a very low angle in the south. Then it moved up across his view at a 45° angle toward the west for 15-30 seconds. It stopped for 15-20 seconds in the WSW, 15° up, blocking a star. Finally, it moved faster, reaching the NW sky in 5 seconds, stopped, and vanished.

Single witness; other calls were phoned in to Kirtland Air Force Base about the same time, but no records of names or details were kept. No record of observation by the Albuquerque Airport nor the Air Route Traffic Control Center.

2-12-37	DD	10-29-77	7:30 AM	5 min.	2	Northeast, PA

26-year old patrolman, notified of earlier UFO reports that morning spotted a "brown cigar", half the moon's diameter, at an estimated 700-foot altitude. The "cigar" headed towards him from 30-45° up in the NE, westbound, and turned 45° to the SW where it faded in the distance. A tail fin could be seen, despite the different maneuvers and aspects. Clear sky, no sound.

Same description reported by citizen to police. Nothing logged at Erie Air Traffic Control; no balloon launches in the area known to account for it. Cleveland Air Route Traffic Control Center checked 4 logs, nothing noted. Possible aircraft.

2-12-38	DD	10-29-77	abt. 4 PM	2½ min.	4	Hagerstown, MD

Four men at a gas station in downtown Hagerstown watched a white round object half the size of the moon against a blue sky. Reflecting the sunlight and making no noise, the globe was observed to orbit around a cloud counter-clockwise twice. The object would emerge from behind the cloud (70° up in the NW), cross in front of it

(cont. on news page)

CE II IN IOWA
Did a Streetlight With "Eyes" "See" a UFO . . . and Respond?

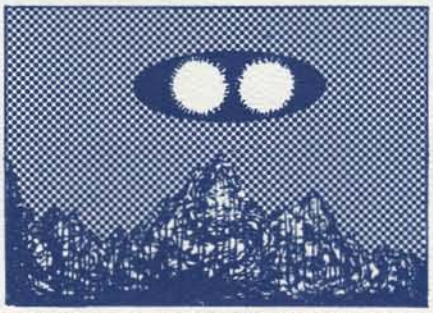
CASE	TYPE	DATE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	PLACE
2-11-51	CE II	10-9-77	8:30 ± 2 min.	less than 5 min.	1	Walcott, IA

This case, 2-11-51, was still under investigation last issue and, as predicted, turned out to be quite provocative; regrettably, only one witness could be located, so the merit of the sighting must be considered "limited" (by IUR's ground rules), but we are presenting it in expanded form as it warrants more attention than others in this category.

Holly Prunchak, 18, was working alone as a Pinkerton security guard at the main entrance of the French-Hecht plant ½-mile east of Walcott, Iowa. The area is rural, with Black Angus cattle grazing just across the street on farm property. She was listening to an FM station on an AC-powered radio with the lights dimmed in the guard house and the window open about 3 inches.

SIGHTING

Suddenly, flashing lights were seen rising straight up from the distant trees in the NW. These levelled off at a low angle above the trees and proceeded horizontally southbound toward her. It became clear that the lights were headlights that were blinding in intensity, yet flashed slowly on and off "like a beacon". Between flashes, Holly could see a dark oval shape that contained the headlights (see sketch below), as wide as the full moon's diameter. As it got closer, the FM radio went silent. The young guard tried to call the others in the plant on a battery-operated walkie-talkie, but couldn't raise anyone. As the object loomed 100 yards away (estimated), it appeared as large as two quarters held at arm's length. It passed near a



mercury vapor streetlight across the street from the guard house, yet no sound could be heard through the open window. Then the streetlight extinguished, and remained off for 1 to 1½ minutes! A grain elevator with a warning light on top was blocked from view when the UFO passed in front of it, always moving very slowly. Then when the "oval" was positioned to the SW of her, it appeared to drop straight down into the trees of the farm property across the street. She regained the use of her equipment and called for help on a telephone intercom system. She was hysterical with other plant guards and employees when they didn't believe her . . . yet none of these people ventured onto the farm property to check out the presumed landing! Holly Prunchak went to the police in desperation, and the case was called to our attention via the Center for UFO Studies' Hotline.

FOLLOW-UP

IUR sent veteran investigator Ralph DeGraw to the scene to meet the witness and examine the area. Meanwhile, we checked with the Davenport Municipal Airport and the Chicago (Aurora) Air Route Traffic Control Center in search of radar confirmation of "unusual traffic", but since the object was at a low altitude outside of the immediate control zone of the airport, it would have looked simply like ordinary "non-transponding VFR traffic" . . . the gesture, thus, was a futile one.

With an eye toward the power failures we contacted the Iowa Electric Light & Power Company to see if any voltage excursions, tripped breakers, *etc.* had been logged by the Regional Supervisor for Walcott. As it turned out, the sub-station feeding that area lacks the necessary re-

(cont. on p. 8)

PAPUA / FATHER GILL REVISITED

—PART TWO—

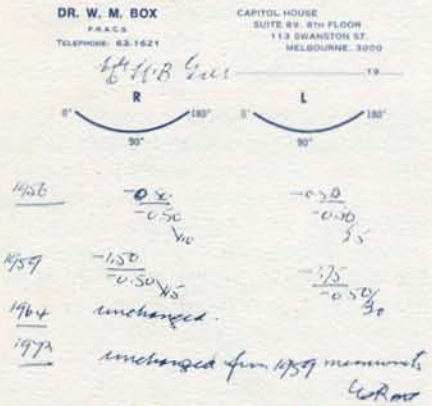
Last issue, IUR used the Rev. William B. Gill's summer visit to the United States as an opportunity to reconstruct the events of June 26, 27, & 28, 1959 in Papua. On two of those three nights in that remote corner of the world, 38 people witnessed a Close Encounter of the Third Kind (CE III)—the largest number of people known to have viewed a UFO with occupants. We reconstructed, with Father Gill's aid, the details of the sightings, answering questions never before resolved (including the positioning of the UFOs). We also explored many of the challenges of the skeptics on this case and looked at the backgrounds of Gill and the native witnesses. In part two, IUR will reconstruct the actual positions of prominent astronomical objects on June 26, 1959, for the night sky over Boianai; this is important, since the stationary behavior of the UFOs described by the witnesses, coupled with the long durations involved, have made many wonder if celestial bodies could have been responsible.

MOTHER SHIP = VENUS MINUS GLASSES?

Both Klass and Menzel have implicated Venus as a likely target for the object identified by Father Gill as the primary UFO. Menzel incorrectly noted that Gill never mentioned seeing Venus; it's not in his log, but in correspondence to Cruttwell (and he told IUR of its position relative to the primary UFO). Also, it set in the west while the main UFO maintained its position. Still, Menzel looked for a means to exaggerate the apparent size of a star to 2½°.

"We are first to assume that Father Gill and Stephen Gill Moi both suffer appreciable myopia and that they were not wearing spectacles during the sighting. They probably had appreciable stigmatism as well, so that the image of Venus was large and definitely elongated." Some more optical acrobatics are introduced: atmospheric distortions, eyelid and eyelash excursions, etc. Having completed this house of cards, Menzel concluded, "I should be very much interested to know whether or not Father Gill wears glasses, what his correction is, and finally, whether he was wearing them on that evening. Since a very simple hypothesis accounts, without any

strain, for the reported observations, I shall henceforth consider the Father Gill case as solved." For those who don't feel that this construction is sufficiently self-destructive, IUR presents Father Gill's optometric history:



Note that Gill's prescription is currently the same today as it was back then.

We also remind you of the other drawings done by the witnesses (independently). Did everyone on the beach forget their glasses?

IUR: *"We might as well take out the last of Klass' premises. He said that Stephen Gill Moi's middle name attests to his admiration of you."*

GILL: "There are many hundreds of Gills in the territory because they had been named after a famous person who had been there since 1908, Archdeacon Stephen Romney Gill, a very revered old man, and many, many children have been named after him. Stephen had been named that probably before I was even out of knickers."

IUR: *"Did you have a camera available?"*

GILL: "I might have had a box Brownie, nothing more sophisticated. I'm not a camera person. Here I've come all the way to the U.S. and going on to England, and no camera! I'll buy picture postcards. At Boianai, it was a 19-hour trip to get film. It was a life cut off several hundred miles from the nearest store, out of communication with the general world, until 6-week old newspapers arrived. One didn't go to the store and load one's camera, things like that.

IUR: *"Norman Cruttwell collected a total of 65 UFO sightings from that area for the year of 1959. Do you have any personal impressions about them?"*

GILL: "No. I remember him describing one some time afterwards of a balloon-type figure that exploded or something; but no, I don't know anything of his collection of reports."

There were other sightings that took place in neighboring villages, but these were apparently based on unrelated objects:

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

A trader named Ernie Everett had his launch anchored off Giwa (see map) around 7:15 to 7:30 PM. He reported seeing a bright green object with a trail of white fire approach from the north or northeast. It looked like a shooting star except it slowed down and came to within an estimated 500 feet from him, positioned 45° up. The light on it faded, revealing 4 or 5 semi-domed portholes surrounding a rugger football shape, around 60 to 80 feet in length. It hovered for about 4 minutes, made 3 noises ("WOOMP! WOOMP! WOOMP!"), and, glowing a brilliant greenish-white, shot off at great speed towards the mountains of the west.

Before this man could relate his tale to the witnesses at Boianai the next day, the natives queried *him* first to see if he had seen the same thing they had. The two parties were separated by 15 miles, and the descriptions, of course, do not match, but the coincidence is intriguing, of course.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Mr. R. L. Smith and Mr. & Mrs. Orwin noticed a bright white spherical light to the NNW at 7:40 PM from Baniara. This light sparkled at an estimated altitude of 8 to 9 thousand feet, holding stationary for some time and slowly moved westbound. A red glow and shafts of green light were seen to emanate from the base of the light. Many stars and a few clouds were present. The light created a brighter reflection in the water than the stars around it. The witnesses also noticed a round, bronze-colored disc below and to the right of the main light. These two objects maintained the same relation to each other as they slowly moved across and downward to the west where they disappeared in a low cloud bank at 8:45.

Despite Norman Cruttwell's enthusiasm in preparing this report, the astronomical reconstruction depicted makes it clear that the two objects seen were Venus and "bronze-colored" Mars which *is* below and to the right. These would maintain the same relation to each other and set in the west around 9 PM. The low clouds in the west prematurely curtailed this. Indeed, the next night, both objects were seen again in the same place, setting in the west at 9:15 after watching them for 3 hours. This time, the "beams" were not atmospherically-induced, but fluctuating brightness created the illusion of motion toward and away from the witnesses. Mars also appeared to them to "jump up" towards Venus when the two got nearer to the horizon and "merge" with it. Venus also presented an artificially-enlarged size (a sixpence at arm's length). Bear in mind that the "arm's length" method itself exaggerates the apparent size of distant objects. All of these effects noted are commonly described to IUR when

atmospherically-distorted stars are reported as "UFOs". The witnesses thought they were watching Venus more to the north of the "UFOs", which is incorrect.

Two Brothers at the Roman Catholic Mission at Sideia, 90 miles SE of Boianai also watched a bright light in the west at 8:30 PM. The apparent size of this light fluctuated from a pinpoint to "half the size of a full moon". Again, this 10-minute observation is consistent with seeing Venus.

IUR concluded by asking Father Gill some more about his personal impressions 18 years later.

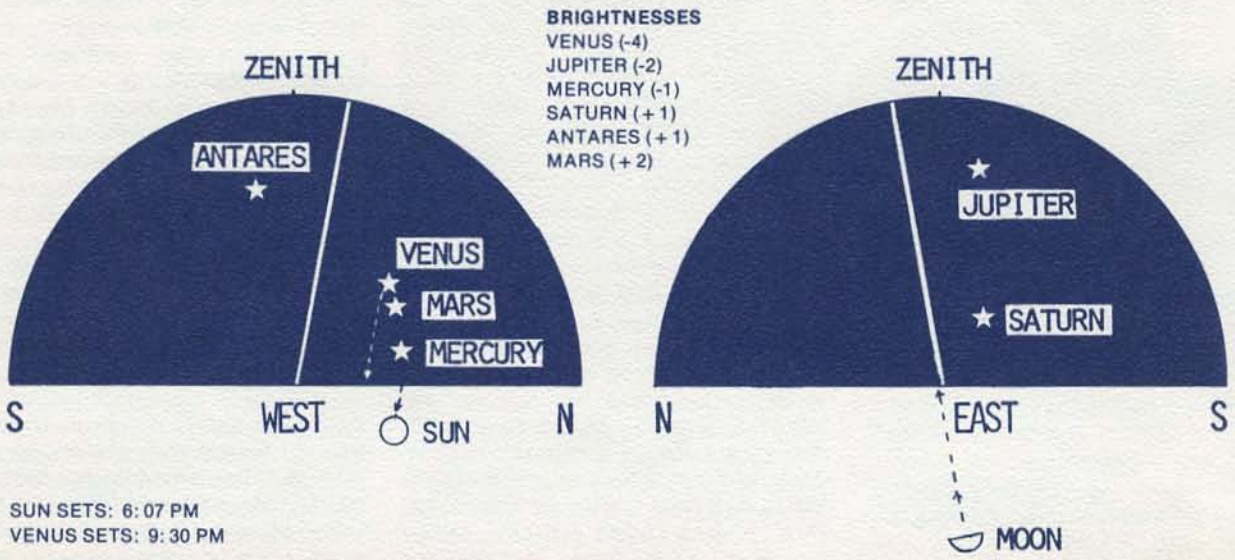
IUR: *"18 years later, you still don't propose any specific theory to explain what you saw?"*

GILL: "No."

IUR: *"You've been living in Melbourne, Australia since then. Having been thrust into this situation, have you been more conscious of UFO activity in Australia in the last 18 years?"*

GILL: "Oh, yes, whenever something appears in the paper I check it through. Yes, I'm conscious and generally interested. I don't go out of my way to buy books on UFOs. I do read any articles in the newspapers, or if there is an occasional documentary on UFOs, because I want to see what other viewpoints are, and what other theories are doing the

COULD THE UFOS BE ASTRONOMICAL?



The drawings above depict the night sky for 7 PM for Boianai, Papua for June 26, 1959. The base lines are the horizon, the top points of the curves are the zenith (overhead point). The white line (Celestial Equator) delineates the path the stars and planets will parallel as they rise in the east and set in the west. The view of all 5 planets visible to the naked eye at one time is remarkable (subject to the varying cloud conditions mentioned by Gill). The lack of exact positions by Father Gill precludes 100% confidence, but IUR is inclined to agree with the Royal Australian Air Force's assessment that the "lesser UFOs" are attributable to bright stars and planets . . . but *not* the primary object. Even the RAAF, in a 1970 letter, demonstrated their attention to the large angular size described for the main UFO when they speculated about a "reflection on clouds of a major light source of unknown origin". In the wilds of Boianai, this explanation is every bit as incredible as a "real UFO" explanation; remember, too, that the saucer was seen against clear sky as well as under clouds.

Note that at 7 o'clock, the moon is 60° below the eastern horizon, and will not rise until hours later. The sun is 15° below the horizon. With the moon out of contention as a target to consider, we checked to see if a comet might have provided an extended source, but there were none. Using this chart, IUR is confident it has a positive ID on the Smith/Orwin sighting as being Venus (colored white) and Mars (colored red quite noticeably). A skeptic *could* utilize this chart to write off the Gill sighting in the following fashion:

It has been stated that the UFOs were seen long after Venus set. While this is true of the lesser UFOs which are probably distorted stars and planets, it is *not* true of the primary UFO! On all three nights, the time of disappearance of the main UFO never exceeds the time Venus sets (between 9:00 and 9:30 PM, depending on terrain of the "horizon" and atmospheric distortion effects). Gill had the main UFO disappear at 9:10, reappear at 9:20, and disappear for good at 9:30 PM. The coincidence of the disappearance of the main UFO and the time of Venus' setting is provocative. Granted, Gill claims to have seen Venus at the same time, but he may have thought that Mercury, unusually bright at the time as well, was Venus instead! After all, the skeptic would say, he professes no astronomical experience. When the "UFO" reappears the next night in roughly the same place, this could be construed as further evidence that the UFO was astronomical. The long durations suggest it, too, and the other "sightings" that were *clearly* Venus amply demonstrate the distortions that were being created at the time by the atmosphere over Papua. Yet all of these telling considerations hit a dead end when three of the witnesses' considerations are taken into account:

1) Gill's adamance that the main UFO NEVER BUDGED from its position 30° up in the WNW, instead of setting in the west such as the Smith/Orwin case.

2) Gill's gross apparent size for the object. IUR talked him down from 5" at arm's length to 5 times the moon's width (*much* smaller), but this is still excessive for a "smeared out star". Not even the RAAF claimed that.

3) The basic similarity of the different drawings done.

GILL'S METHOD FOR DETERMINING SIZE OF UFO

Making the assumption that the "men" on the deck of the UFO were human-sized, Gill later had two men run back on the playing field until their "size" approximated that of the UFO-nauts. Then he had them split apart to equal the endpoints of the UFO's diameter. This yielded a figure of 35 feet for the body, and 20 feet for the upper deck; obviously, these figures are extremely rough, but look at the angular size established visually for the main UFO!

circuit."

IUR: *"What books have you read since?"*
GILL: "Since then, I've read Hynek's book (UFO EXPERIENCE) and raced through the Adamski thing . . . "

IUR: *"The Adamski people . . . Norris came to see you."*
GILL: "Peter Norris, first sitting in his office, I think . . . of course, I was entirely ignorant of all these people. It seemed rather extraordinary to me. You know, the moon, Venus, and that sort of thing (Ed. note: George Adamski was a contactee in the fifties who claimed to have been taken by the Venusians to see lush, vegetated areas on the moon), little men, and so on. So, I read it, and afterwards I said, "look, I just can't swallow this, I can't take this; if this is what your UFO group's all about, I wouldn't have anything to do with it."

IUR: *"Have you felt any urge to try to tie in your sightings with others you have read about?"*
GILL: "Sometimes you hear descriptions where I can say yes, that is very similar to certain aspects of what I saw. This has happened, and, of course, it's very satisfying. The thing that amazed me about the whole thing was that it became so well known. This was just a local thing for me. I could never have seen people grasping this as ——"
IUR: *"—— a classic incident."*
GILL: "That's right! I don't know. Had I done this as a bit of journalism that I'm going to make a packet on, I think I might have approached it in an entirely different way. I think, had I been alert enough to see the future, I could have written this into quite a good story and maybe even produced a book before thousands of other people grabbed my "material" . . . but I just didn't have that sort of thing in mind. I wasn't interested in doing anything but just recording it. Had I done all this with a view toward publicity, I certainly would have been making money on it. There's not much sense in doing something for the sake of publicity unless you get satisfaction out of having your name in the newspaper."

One thing is certain about this case: William Gill is nobody's stereotype for a UFO witness, let alone a UFO seen with occupants. He's not interested in *convincing* anyone that he saw what he describes. He's rather calm and unexcited about the turn of events and reveals no "emotional investment" in them. If someone confronts him with some extravagant theory for what he saw, he remains completely unmoved. Indeed, on July 14 of 1959, Gill wrote the following:

"As chief observer and sole recorder and reporter of the Boianai phenomena . . . I would now hesitate to re-state . . . any opinions or theories as expressed in my previous letters hastily written during that period and which are included in this present material.

"Consideration to the following possible factors, however, cannot be overlooked if this paper is to have any value at all as an attempted objective record." Gill then lists such alternative possibilities as "hallucination", "suggestion (by him as an influence to 'witnesses')", "illusion", "unreliable observers ('inexperience in astronomical observation')" and "variation in descriptive evidence from different sources".

The drawings were done the night of the first sighting in separate room by the individuals noted last issue. These were compared, and the witnesses present were told to write their signatures *only* if they truthfully saw what the drawings portrayed. Gill also wrote that his original estimate of apparent size, 8 inches at arm's length, should be revised down to 5 inches. IUR has reduced this down further by showing Gill the moon which generated a diameter 5 times the moon's width (2½°). The point is that Gill is quite open to any explanation, so long as it rings true, and is not borne of mere speculation.

"When the RAAF investigator came, I was willing to accept the possibility that the small ones were stars, it wasn't beyond the realm of possibility . . . it *still* isn't. I wouldn't be upset if the positions coincided with stars. In fact, it would clear things up. I don't think you'd call me an agnostic, would you. The sort of person who says, "well, I just don't really know", but there are so many theories that could turn out to be right, any one of them . . . it's still a philosophical question".

IUR: *"If you had the same experience now, what would you do differently?"*
GILL: "I think I'd have done exactly the same as that Friday night, but I think my follow-up would have been very thorough. Assuming I'd had the same conditions without photographic material and tape recorders and all the rest of it . . . yes, I think I would have made a thorough follow-up of all the people, perhaps spending several days for miles around . . . but I don't think there would have been much else about it . . . you know, the description of the sky, what was happening from time to time. I'd have had a better team organized—'you do this, you do that'."

IUR feels that it has pushed this case as far as anyone can, 18 years after the fact. At least we feel confident that the sighting was generated *either* by an extraordinary UFO as described, or by Venus distorted in size and shape by (amazing) atmospheric distortions (and memory spanning 18 years by Father Gill). . . . BUT NOTHING ELSE. IUR sees nothing in the post-sighting behavior of Gill, nor anything in the man's character now that we have met him, to suggest that the whole episode was "invented" or hoaxed. It is unfortunate that, unlike more exotic CE III allegations, the object did not land or come sufficiently close to the witnesses so that the spectre of "misperceived star" could be *completely* ignored. The lack of access to more facts about the case underscores the premium IUR places on examining *new* cases.

IUR: *"What is your considered opinion after all these years of the whole event?"*
GILL: "That I saw something inexplicable, that if it was real . . . if it wasn't possibly to some people, it was to *us* . . . that I don't have any considered extraterrestrial or psychic theories. I'd just like to get any kind of explanation for it. I'd *like* to have a theory, and then for someone to prove it right . . . it could be marvelous.

PROFILE: OCTOBER, 1977

• —*IFO* ★ —*UFO*

IFOs

Stars and Planets	19
Ad Planes	12
Aircraft	11
Moon	4
Meteors	4
Balloons	3
Ground Lights	2
Helicopter	1
Prank Balloon	1
Windborne Debris	1
Missile Launch	1
Satellite	1

EXCLUSIONS

Non-UFO	3
Unreliable Witnesses	3
Insufficient Information	1

UFOs

NL	6
DD	4
CE II	1

Total Number of Reports	79
Average Per Day	2.5
Peak Activity (8 cases)	10/23

Total Number of UFOs	11
Total Number of IFOs	61

UFOs: 15.3% **IFOs:** 84.7%

UFOs include 2-11-51, -53, -60, -63, 2-12-16, -17, -25, -37, -38, -39, & -46. Verifications and complete details of these evaluations are available upon request.

One of the "non-UFO" reports merits elaboration. A 23-year old woman, having newly moved into a house in the rural town of Red Lion, PA, noticed a structure the size of a ranch house about 200 yards distant. Sitting in a clearing between two cornfields, the structure looked metallic blue with sloping sides, a dome over ⅔ of the top, and possibly 2 short, squat pods. The woman noticed this at 12 noon on Oct. 23 from inside her house, but merely thought it was a botanical station near her new home. Two hours later, the structure was gone without a trace. Technically, however, IUR has no way to tell if this was just a mobile ground vehicle seen in the distance or something truly within the scope of unidentified *flying* objects.

(*cont. from p. 4*)

cording devices (who says Lady Luck smiles on UFOlogists?-Ed.). We were told, however, that the streetlight in question has a photocell on it which controls the light. If a spotlight were shone upon it, the Supervisor told IUR, the streetlight would go out, and would *stay* out for a delayed period as the photocell "cools down". Since the headlights of the UFO were described as "blinding", it's reasonable to speculate that the streetlight extinguished temporarily for that reason. Another power company's substation serves the French-Hecht plant itself, but since no one in the plant observed any electrical interference indoors, it came as no surprise when that sub-station's recording system showed no power "anomalies".

OTHER EFFECTS

Investigator DeGraw learned that all the ambient animal noises (cattle and crickets) went quiet when the object was in view, according to the witness. The owners of the farm informed DeGrew that they knew nothing about any UFO, but they did recall that their TV set "went dead" for about 1-2 minutes at 8:30 that night! DeGrew went downstairs and checked their electrical circuits. He noticed that the TV was on the same circuit as the house lights, but these were not affected! Note that, with the exception of the streetlight for which a logical explanation exists, all of the affected electrical equipment involved broadcast reception.

Ralph DeGrew examined the farm property but found no overt sign of an actual landing. He also checked with the owners of a farm 1 mile east. These people kept a daily diary of farm activity, including weather; nothing unusual had been noted. Nor had anything been seen by the owner of a trailer house to the west of the farm property in question to whom DeGrew spoke.

WITNESS REACTION

Holly Prunchak no longer works at the plant (she is enlisting in the Army). She does not wear glasses. Holly never believed in UFOs before, and thought that anyone who reported them was "crazy" . . . an attitude she has quickly abandoned. Her co-workers described her as a "quiet" person, and they must have been impressed by her hysteria when the event took place. As Miss Prunchak informed IUR, "I was awed watching it".

signals. A photograph is not a measurement.Give me one little green man, not a theory or a memory of one, and we can have a multi-million dollar program. It's a scientific dilemna... how do prove something that doesn't exist? It's like the Loch Ness Monster revisited; everyone sees it, but there is no visible evidence".

Williamson heads a group of technical experts which will recommend by the end of the year what NASA should do about a White House request to establish a NASA UFO panel of inquiry (see the Oct.'77 IUR). He will make this recommendation to NASA's administrator Robert Frosch. He, in turn, will make a decision to pass on to President Carter's science advisor, Frank Press.

UFO ANALYSIS -

Of the two remaining cases from last issue, one was of interest, and appears as case 2-11-51 inside this issue. None of the cases remaining under investigation this issue were deemed unidentifiable.

Always refer to the monthly Profiles for IFO identification and final UFO compilations. This gives IUR time to complete all of its investigations.

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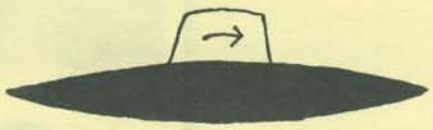
(cont. from page 3)

for 40-45 seconds, and disappear behind the cloud for 18-20 seconds. After the second orbit, it never re-appeared. The cloud was now much closer to the horizon in the NW.

The Hagerstown Airport was 4 miles from the site, but 2 men who were on duty at the time told IUR they hadn't noticed it, nor had the nearest Air Route Traffic Control Center in Washington, D.C. Witness reaction: "Jesus Christ, I can't believe it!"; he then spent $100 on UFO books in search of a photo of the same thing. No independent reports from the area.

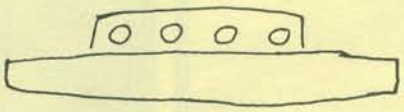
2-12-39 NL 10-29-77 7:45 PM 4 hours 2 Northeast, PA



15- and 14-year old girls watched a light flashing different colors at a medium angle in the west. They thought they could see a dark "pancake" body, twice the moon's diameter, attached to the light, but this was "hard to see". The girls went into the house, and told IUR that they saw the object shine a spotlight down to the spot where they were originally standing. Then they said it was very low in the north, hovering an estimated 10 feet above the grapevines in this rural area. It rushed toward the house such that the witnesses thought it would hit it, but turned off into the trees toward the north. Quiet hum heard when outside.

This one is rather suspect. The media had already informed the borough of the previous night's UFO reports (see UFO NEWSFRONT) all day. The girls were babysitting alone in a strange house. Yes, during those 4 long hours, they *did* call for help, but when a policeman, a fireman, and a state trooper came out *in succession* throughout the night, the most they could see was a distant light. The girls claimed that the object rushed away from the area whenever someone drove to the house, then returned.

2-12-46 NL 10-31-77 9:35 PM 5-7 seconds 2 Placentia, CA



Teenage students watched the object shown in the sketch with 4 steady lights in a row, as wide as the moon. No color or sound could be detected, but the saucer's outline was clearly seen. The object was stationary, eclipsing the ¾ moon for 4 seconds! Then it turned north to the left fast, shooting across the sky and descending out of sight in the last 1-2 seconds. Foggy sky.

No additional reports. Unseen by Fullerton Air Traffic Control and the TRACON military radar at Santa Ana.

* *

COMING IN '73 -

*IUR SECURES THAT VIDEOTAPED UFO EXPERIENCE IN GUATEMALA !
*A COMPILATION OF UFO RESEARCH GROUPS - WORLDWIDE
*ANOTHER IUR "WRAP-UP" ON THE COYNE CASE- WITH SURPRISING NEW EVIDENCE!

STAY TUNED --- SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF OF IUR